

Dear Jim, Good letter to Colonial. I've heard nothing and I expect not to hear. So, give me a date by which we do more and I'll wait until then. I think they just let these kinds of things slide, as does their insurer, it costing them nothing and holding the prospect of profit thanks to the meaninglessness of the governmental bodies that are supposed to but never supervise these kinds of things. Judging by Maryland, anyway...Mailer's letter is polite and complementary, but I think he is merely copping out. As I told you, I would accept his offer to involve his agent, but not for anything like Ramparts nor for anything like what they pay. A good agent can place that with a larger and better-paying magazine. However, you should also bear in mind that it is public domain, and once a magazine sees it they can use it without paying us a cent. Do what you will with this...If Mailer, to whom I also spoke briefly, were sincere, he'd have made a suggestion, someone else instead of him. And if he has had a novel in mind for 15 years and will take two more to write it, it must be War and Peace....It is also possible that the weekend of 23-24 was a bit too much for him. It should have been! Best, HW 12/19/73